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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 20 June and 16 August 1997, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 20 June and 16 August 1997

1. 20 June 1997

At 2145 hours five GC rifle rounds were fired from the Iranian side at coordinates 9275 in the direction of our units at coordinates 9274 and 9174 (1:100,000 map of Kharnubiyah).

2. 21 June 1997

At 2100 hours four masked men in civilian dress carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles on board a small white Iranian fibreglass boat fired on an Iraqi fishing boat at coordinates 5231 (1:100,000 map of Saybah), wounding the fishermen Adil Jasim Muhammad and Qaysar Sami Jasim.

3. 23 June 1997

At 1100 hours an Iranian helicopter flying above the boundary line proceeded to reconnoitre the positions of Fourth Company, Third Battalion, First Border Brigade at coordinates 88049, those of Third Company, First Battalion, First Border Brigade at coordinates 8011, and Third Battalion headquarters at coordinates 8108.

4. 25 June 1997

At 1345 hours two Iranian helicopters were seen coming from the rear towards the area opposite our units at coordinates 6131. They flew for 5 minutes inside Iranian territory at a distance of 4 kilometres from the international boundary before heading north.

5. 25 June 1997

At 1415 hours two Iranian helicopters were seen towards the Iranian rear opposite our units at coordinates 5646. They flew for 10 minutes inside Iranian territory at a distance of 4 kilometres from the international boundary before returning towards the rear.

6. 25 June 1997

At 1000 hours an Iranian reconnaissance aircraft landed in the area opposite our units in Wadi Abu Gharb at coordinates 8905. It remained there for 10 minutes while four persons in military dress alighted from it, and it then flew along the chain of hills that forms the boundary.

7. 26 June 1997

An Iranian helicopter appeared beyond the Iranian post at coordinates 8905, 2 kilometres inside Iranian territory, and proceeded to reconnoitre our units

towards Wadi Khuwaysah at coordinates 955015. The helicopter was in camouflage colours and flew at an altitude of 2,000 metres. It hovered for 10 minutes and then headed towards the Iranian rear.

8. 27 June 1997

The Iranians established a new post opposite our units in Wadi Abu Gharb at coordinates 8409 with a complement of 10 to 12 men. They were accommodated in a permanent fashion in the existing positions on the chain of hills along the border, which were strengthened and reconfigured for the purpose. They are engaged in observing our units and the border road.

9. 13 July 1997

At 0400 hours Jum'ah Salim Hatim al-Nawfali (born 1970, employed as a fisherman and residing in the Uzayr district of Maysan Governorate) set out for his regular work of fishing in the eastern marshes of the Uzayr district. An Iranian military patrol that was near the border in the area fired at him, and he was hit in the abdomen and killed.

10. 15 July 1997

At 0030 hours individuals from the Iranian position at the Mimak post located at coordinates 8617 (1:100,000 map of Mandali) fired three illumination flares of different colours and five or six 60-millimetre mortar bombs towards the Iranian rear, as well as about 30 rounds from small arms.

11. 16 July 1997

At 1900 hours the Iranian side erected two metal observation towers, each about 5 metres high, on the Iranian shore opposite the Ziyadiyah area. One was at the post at coordinates 415550 and the other at the post at coordinates 425540 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

12. 22 July 1997

At 1200 hours three men in civilian clothing carrying GC rifles on board a red Iranian fibreglass patrol boat seized a wooden Iraqi fishing boat while it was at work opposite the Ziyadiyah area and took it to the Iranian post at coordinates 426541 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). There were three Iraqi fishermen on board; Ghalib Jabir, Kamil Abd al-Wahid and Shakir Abd al-Rahman.

13. 23 July 1997

At 1400 hours elements from the Iranian post mentioned in paragraph 12 above used the Iraqi fishing boat they had seized in carrying out a patrol of the area. At 0800 hours on 24 July the Iraqi boat was seen moored at the same post, and at 0200 hours on 25 July the Iranian side released the Iraqi fishermen who had been abducted.

14. 25 July 1997

At 1130 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen coming from Wadi Khuwaysah towards the post located at coordinates 890050. It flew along inside Iranian territory at a distance of 1 kilometre from the boundary line and at an altitude of 1,000 metres. It then withdrew towards the Iranian rear.

15. 26 July 1997

At 1400 hours an Iranian military helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear. It landed in the Naft-e Shah area at coordinates 4560 (1:100,000 map of Balad Ruz) and three soldiers whose features could not be distinguished alighted. They were taken in a military jeep to the Naft-e Shah complex, where they remained for one hour. At 1500 hours the helicopter returned towards the Iranian rear with the men in question.

16. 29 July 1997

At 2230 hours a helicopter came from the Iranian rear to the Iranian post opposite our units at coordinates 9083 (Kut Sawadi). It then returned towards the Iranian rear.

17. 4 August 1997

At 1040 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter flying at high altitude was seen coming from the Iranian rear towards the Iranian Khusrawi post at coordinates 4404 (1:100,000 map of Khanaqin). It then headed towards the Iraqi Yasin post at coordinates 4201 (1:100,000 map of Khanaqin) before returning towards the Iranian rear.

18. 7 August 1997

At 0900 hours an Iranian military helicopter flying at an altitude of 100 to 150 metres was seen coming from the Iranian rear at coordinates 4664 and heading towards Hawd Sumar. At 0150 hours the same helicopter was seen flying opposite the Harran post at coordinates 5029 at an altitude of 150 to 200 metres following the border strip opposite our units. At 1000 hours it returned towards the Iranian rear.

19. 10 August 1997

At 1700 hours four small Iranian fibreglass patrol boats fitted with medium machine-guns were seen near Mina' al-Bakr at coordinates 8686 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr). They were pursued by Iraqi patrol boats and made their escape.

20. 16 August 1997

At 1200 hours the Iranian side proceeded to build a 2-metre-high observation point on the earth embankment located at the trading post opposite the Arafat post at coordinates 9864 (1:100,000 map of Zurbatiyah).